REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-23 are currently pending in this application. Claims 11 and 18 have been amended to place the claims in better condition for allowance. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-12, 14 and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Wesinger Jr. et al (U.S. Patent 6,324,538). The Examiner admits that Wesinger fails to teach storing information relating to the address in a companion file if a match is found. The Examiner alleges however that it would have been obvious to store information if a match was found. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 11 recites a method for validating an address entered by a user at a remote terminal comprised in part by "storing information relating to the address in a companion file on the remote terminal if a match is found." Applicant respectfully submits that Wesinger does not disclose or suggest the recited limitation.

Rather in the system of Wesinger "a computer network and a database provide a hardware-independent, dynamic information system in which the information content is entirely user-controlled. Requests are received from individual users of the computer network to electronically publish information, and input is accepted from the individual users. Entries from the

-6-

users containing the information to be electronically published are automatically collected, classified and stored in the database in searchable and retrievable form. Entries are made freely accessible on the computer network. In response to user requests, the database is searched and entries are retrieved. Entries are served to users in a hardware-independent page description language." (Wesinger, col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 7).

Wesinger does not however, disclose or suggest storing information in companion file on a remote terminal when an address match is found as recited in claim 11 of the present invention. Rather, the system of Wesinger simply performs a search (on an address or other things) and returns the results. Accordingly applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 recites a novel and unobvious method over Wesinger and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 12-17, that depend directly or indirectly from claim 11 are allowable as is claim 11 and for additional limitations recited therein.

Independent claim 18 recites a method for matching an address with a database of valid addresses comprised in part by "receiving address data formatted in accordance with a particular format from a plurality of possible formats; manipulating the received address data into a predetermined format corresponding to said particular format; comparing data in the predetermined format with valid addresses in the database; and presenting the results if one or more matches are found." Applicant respectfully submits that Wesinger does not disclose or suggest the recited elements.

Rather, as indicated by the Examiner, the database management system of Wesinger supports Standard Query Language, or SQL. Wesinger then utilizes a "variety of HTML front-ending tools 109 which "run as extensions to the server software, allowing computer network users to each add entries to a database, search entries in the database, and update entries by that particular user, all using the Web (or a Web-like) graphical user interface. The server software and the HTML front-ending tools communicate through the Common Gateway Interface 111." (Wesinger, col. 4, lines 17-23).

Thus, unlike claim 18 which receives data in a plurality of possible formats, Wesinger only teaches the manipulation of one received data format into a single predetermined format .

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 recites a novel and unobvious method over Wesinger and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 19-23, that depend directly or indirectly from claim 18 are allowable as is claim 18 and for additional limitations recited therein.
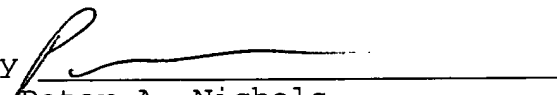
It is therefore respectfully submitted that pending claims 11-23 are in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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